

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Donations to hurricane relief effort

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is accepting donations to fund both the immediate needs and long-term Mississippi Baptist disaster relief efforts along the Gulf Coast and throughout the state. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Fully 100% of the donations will be used directly for hurricane relief. More information on how to contribute can be obtained by calling (601) 292-3206, or e-mailing mbcbdisasterrelief@mbcb.org.

Recovery underway on ravaged Coast

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptists along Mississippi's Gulf Coast say the response of Christians from around the nation has inspired them in their struggle to recover from Hurricane Katrina damage.

Jackson Association in southeastern Mississippi, for example, processed more than 3,000 volunteers in the two months following Hurricane Katrina. The volunteers have removed mud and debris from 600 homes in Pascagoula and elsewhere in the area.

"It gives us a great deal of encouragement and emotional energy to go on," said Tom Miller, associate missions director for Jackson Association. "The fact people care and come and assist in demolition and repair work gives you a boost."

"We've been blessed by all the volunteers," said Brian Rushing, associate pastor of First Church in Bay St. Louis. People from eight different states have cleaned up homes, cleared away trees and other debris, and helped renovate First Church's building in recent weeks.

"It gives people hope, a little bit of encouragement and shows them what it means to be a Christian and love other people," Rushing said. "We've heard over and over again [from residents], 'If it weren't for the church, we wouldn't have any help.'"

Both Jackson County and Bay St. Louis farther to the west suffered extensive damage. In Jackson County, at the southeastern edge of the state, 70% of the population of 132,000 was affected by the storm, Miller said. Twenty-seven of the Baptist association's 43 churches sustained damage, with 10 of the 27 covered by water as deep as six feet.

The flooded churches are being muddled out, with all floor coverings ripped out, walls stripped down to the studs, and mold and mildew being treated.

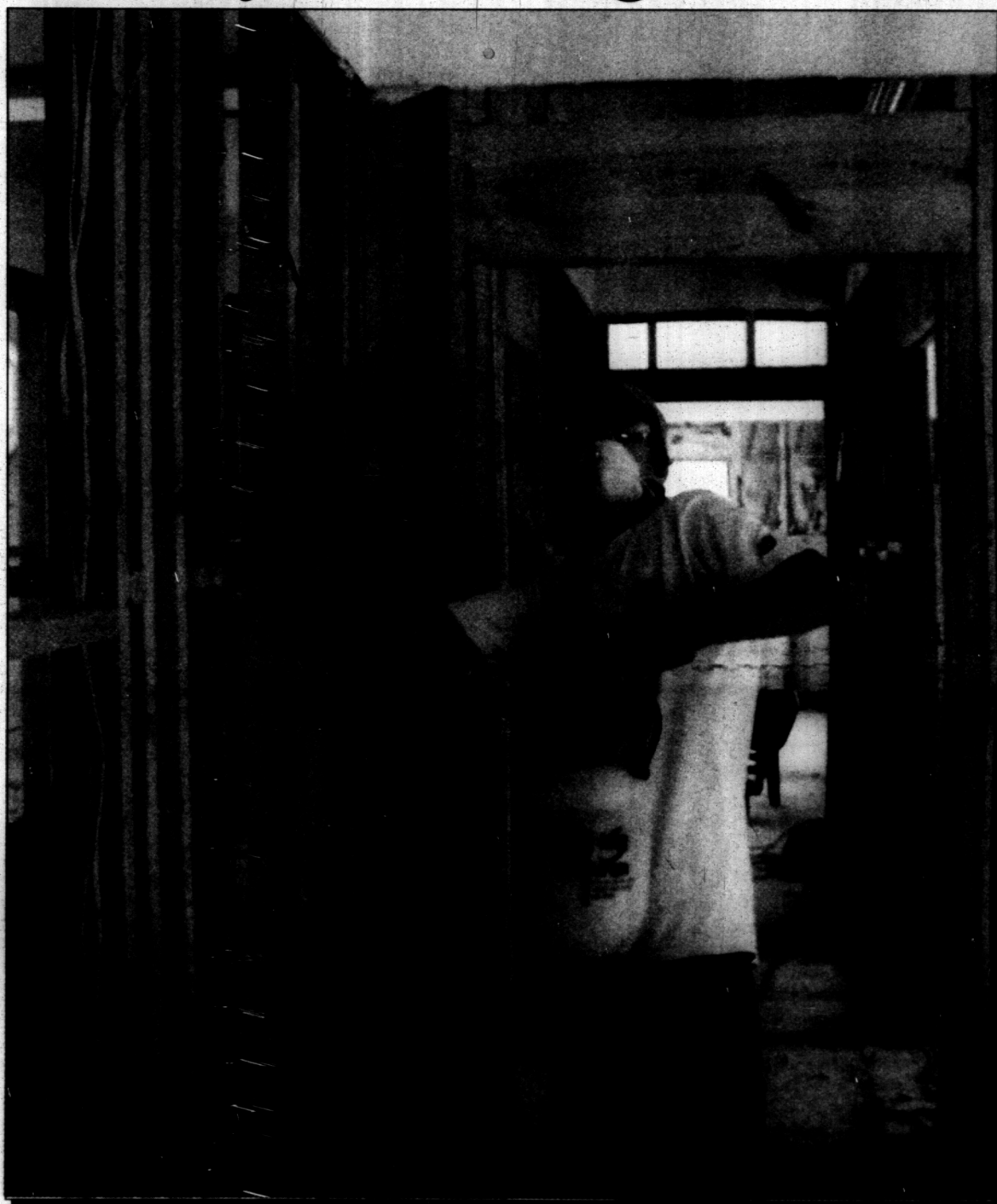
The storm losses are serious, since 70% of the association's churches have 100 members or less, Miller said. He said many are currently meeting in fellowship halls, cafeterias, on porches, or in tents.

"A couple may not exist after the storm," Miller said. "There's so much required and they only have 20-25 members. They may reincorporate with another church."

Miller's own experience illustrates the challenge facing churches in the association. The interim pastor of Four Mile Creek Church in nearby Escatawpa, Miller said pre-hurricane Sunday School attendance of 100-125 has dropped in half.

"People are out trying to get their houses back together," Miller said. "A lot of people are displaced. They're staying with family in other locations 20-30 miles away. They come down to work on their home and then go back."

In addition, no offerings were taken for three weeks after the storm. Once they resumed, the offerings reached only 25% of past levels, Miller said. Four Mile Creek Church sustained \$83,000 in roof damage covered by insurance, but Miller said there is no coverage for most other losses.



BATTLING MOLD — Ryan Taylor, a volunteer from Crestwood (Ky.) Church, sprays a bleach solution to help kill off mold in a home in Bay St. Louis that was flooded by Hurricane Katrina. About 60,000 Southern Baptists have volunteered to work along the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast since the monster storm came ashore in late August. (BP photo courtesy of Crestwood Church)

"The state convention has helped with pastors' salaries," Miller said. "Every pastor has received emergency assistance, but that only replaces a portion of what was lost."

Still, Southern Baptists are doing their best to help the association recover. Thus far, it has formed partnerships with the South Carolina and Kentucky Baptist conventions and Georgia's Chattahoochee Association.

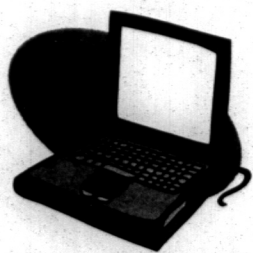
Jackson Association is open to multiple partnerships, Miller said, whether it is with the association or individual churches. He suggested that churches consider helping with specific tasks, such as replacing pews, carpeting, or sheet rock.

"Everyone working together can make it easier on the individual [church]," Miller

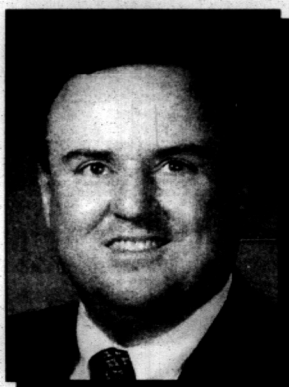
said. "We're in need of raw materials, such as sheet rock and carpeting. Skilled labor is at a premium. Qualified, licensed electricians, plumbers, and folks like that can be crew leaders, and the city will allow them to work off a license from out of state."

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force was also on the scene hours after Hurricane Katrina made landfall, preparing up to 12,000 meals per day at First Church, Biloxi.

To get involved in the church rebuilding effort along contact the Mississippi Baptist Adopt A Church ministry at (601) 292-3206. E-mail: disasterrelief@mbcb.org. Application forms for the ministry may be filled out electronically at www.mbc.org.



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Miss. Baptists oppose gambling

The following commentary was submitted to *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, in response to editorial attacks on Mississippi Baptists by the pro-gambling newspaper during the recent special legislative session that approved land-based casinos. A heavily-edited version was published in *The Clarion-Ledger* on October 22. Following is the unedited version that was originally submitted to the newspaper.

Perspective Editor Sid Salter's recent attacks on Mississippi Baptists for their unwavering stand against land-based gambling are further troubling examples of the intellectual dishonesty that passes for discourse in the news media these days.

Replete with half-truths and connect-the-dots innuendo, Salter's columns would have us believe that the actions of a handful of Baptist legislators 15 years ago and during the recent special session prove Mississippi Baptists aren't serious opponents of legalized gambling.

The truth is that Mississippi Baptists at their annual meetings have passed at least 12 resolutions opposing virtually every

type of legalized gambling under consideration at the time. Those resolutions reflect the collective sentiments of the members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's churches as voted in each annual session, not the actions of a few legislators in the distant past or even recently. That's not an opinion, Mr. Salter. That's a fact.

Salter is also clever by half when he lumps all Baptists together to declare the Mississippi Legislature is majority Baptist. The truth is that while he may be technically correct, Salter is a lifelong Mississippian who professes to have attended a Baptist church so he knew when he wrote those words that the many Baptist groups in Mississippi are independent and distinctive from each other.

Just as there are many kinds of Methodists and many kinds of Lutherans, there are many kinds of Baptists. That's not an opinion, Mr. Salter. That's a fact.

Mississippi Baptists — the common as well as trademarked name for members of churches affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention — clearly do not make up a majority of either chamber of the Legislature. Salter's headcounts on the gambling bills in 1990 and 2005 are therefore suspect and obviously cannot be relied upon.

Salter and *The Clarion-Ledger*'s other editorialists have consistently attempted to marginalize opponents of legalized gambling. Those who have spoken out against the gambling/political complex in Mississippi have been described of late on the editorial pages of the newspaper as, among other things, exploitative meddlers and uncaring job destroyers.

Salter and the editorial writers at *The Clarion-Ledger*, like many Mississippi news media and legislators, have foolishly and uncritically accepted baseless threats from casino owners not to rebuild unless they could move on to land, and dutifully passed the manufactured crisis along to readers.

The truth is that sane business people do not walk away from a market that generates \$1.5 billion a year and even if they did, there would be many other gambling companies salivating at the opportunity to move in.

It's also a fact, Mr. Salter, that *The Clarion-Ledger* is the recipient of many, many thousands of dollars in advertising from Mississippi casinos. Publisher John Newhouse declined to release those figures to *The Baptist Record*, stating, "I believe you are attempting to connect advertising with news coverage and editorial opinions. Let me assure you these departments are run entirely separate and the dollars spent on advertising have no bearing on news stories or editorials on any subject."

Fair enough, but one might be led to wonder why a champion of open government such as *The Clarion-Ledger* would withhold information so important to this discussion.

Surely no one at the newspaper is acting unethically or improperly, but the newspaper's powerful editorial voice in favor of legalized gambling would no doubt be debated if the public knew the amount of money that is changing hands.

I tip my hat to the newspaper's reporters and photographers who have worked so tirelessly on the newspaper's magnificent coverage of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, but must also sadly observe that your leadership has failed you — and us — once again.

What a shame.

How legislators voted on land-based gambling (HB 45)

* denotes member of a Mississippi Baptist church

House of Representatives YE-60 (for land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Akins, Noel*	Oxford	12
Bailey, Willie	Greenville	49
Baker, Mark	Brandon	74
Banks, Earle	Jackson	67
Bentz, Leonard	Biloxi	116
Blackmon Jr., Edward	Canton	57
Broomfield, Billy	Moss Point	110
Brown, Cecil	Jackson	66
Burnett, Clara	Tunica	9
Calhoun, Credell	Jackson	68
Carlton, Virginia*	Columbia	100
Clark, Bryant	Pickens	47
Clarke, Alyce	Jackson	69
Coleman, Linda	Mound Bayou	29
Coleman, Mary	Jackson	65
Compretta, J.P.	Bay St. Louis	122
Davis, Lee Jarrell	Hattiesburg	102
Dedeaux, Dirk*	Gulfport	95
Denny, Bill	Jackson	64
Espy III, Henry	Clarksdale	26
Evans, James	Jackson	70
Flaggs Jr., George	Vicksburg	55
Fredericks, Frances	Gulfport	110
Guice Jr., Daniel	Ocean Springs	114
Hamilton, Frank	Hurley	109
Harrison, Esther	Columbus	41
Hinds Sr., John	Greenville	50
Holland, Steve	Plantersville	16
Holloway Sr., Gregory	Hazlehurst	76
Ishee, Roger	Gulfport	118
Janus, Michael	Biloxi	117
Johnson III, Robert	Natchez	94
Malone, Bennett	Carthage	45
Martinson, Rita	Madison	58
Mayhall Jr., W.T.	Southaven	40
Mayo, John	Clarksdale	25
Moak, Bobby*	Bogue Chitto	53
Moore, John*	Brandon	60
Morris, Leonard	Batesville	11
Myers, David	McComb	98
Norquist, David	Cleveland	28
Patterson, Randall	Biloxi	115
Peranich, Diane	Pass Christian	121
Read, John*	Gautier	112
Reeves, John*	Jackson	71
Robinson Jr., Walter	Bolton	63

Simpson Jr., James*	Pass Christian	120
Smith, Clayton*	Brandon	59
Smith, Ferr	Carthage	27
Snowden, Gregg*	Meridian	83
Staples, Gary	Laurel	88
Straughter, Rufus	Belzoni	51
Thomas, Sara	Indianola	31
Upshaw, Jessica	Diamondhead	95
Watson, Percy	Hattiesburg	103
Whittington, May	Schlater	34
Woods, Tommy	Byhalia	52
Young Sr., Charles	Meridian	82
Zuber III, Hank	Ocean Springs	113

NAY-53 (against land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Aldridge, Brian*	Tupelo	17
Arinder, Tracy	Morton	75
Baker, Larry*	Senatobia	8
Barnett, Jim	Brookhaven	92
Beckett, Jim*	Bruce	23
Bondurant, Sidney	Grenada	24
Bounds, Scott*	Philadelphia	44
Buck, Kelvin	Holly Springs	5
Chism, Gary*	Columbus	37
Cummings, Ricky	Iuka	1
Dickson, Reecy	Macon	42
Eaton, Bo*	Taylorville	79
Ellington, Jim*	Raymond	73
Fillingane, Joey*	Sumrall	101
Fleming, Erik	Jackson	72
Formby, Mark*	Picayune	109
Franks Jr., Jamie	Mooreville	19
Frierson, Herb*	Poplarville	106
Gadd, Jack	Hickory Flat	13
Gibbs, David	West Point	36
Gregory, James*	Louisville	43
Gunn, Philip*	Clinton	56
Hamilton, Eugene	Olive Branch	6
Horne, Steve*	Meridian	81
Jowell, Bobby*	Kilmichael	46
Hudson, Joey*	Monticello	91
Jennings, Wanda	DeSoto	7
Lott, Mark*	Petal	104
Markham Jr., J.B.	G'wood Springs	20
McBride, Warner*	Courtland	10
McCoy, Billy*	Rienzi	3
Miles, Bill	Fulton	21
Mims V, Sam	McComb	97

Montgomery, Pat	Pontotoc	15
Moss, Harvey*	Corinth	2
Nicholson, Billy*	Little Rock	78
Parker, Deryk*	Lucedale	107
Reed, Dannie*	Ackerman	35
Reynolds, Tommy*	Water Valley	33
Robinson, Eric*	Quitman	84
Rogers, Margaret	New Albany	14
Rogers, Ray	Pearl	61
Rotenberry, Clinton*	Mendenhall	22
Smith, Jeff*	Columbus	39
Stringer, Johnny	Montrose	87
Sullivan, Preston*	Okolona	22
Turner, Jerry	Baldwyn	18
Vince, Robert	Sandy Hook	99
Walley, Shaun*	Leakesville	105
Ward, Greg	Ripley	4
Warren, Joe	Mt. Olive	90
Weathersby, Tom*	Florence	62
Wells-Smith, Carmel*	Pascagoula	111

PRESENT

Ellis, Tyrone	Starkville	38
Perkins Sr., William	Greenwood	32

NOT VOTING

Huddleston, Robert	Sumner	30
Middleton, Chuck	Port Gibson	85
Scott, Omeria	Laurel	80
Shows, Bobby*	Ellisville	89

ABSENT

Masterson, Chester	Vicksburg	54
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Mississippi Senate

YE-29 (for land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Albritton, Sid*	Picayune	40
Brown, Terry*	Columbus	17
Burton, Terry	Newton	31
Chaney, Mike	Vicksburg	23
Clarke, Buck	Hollandale	22
Cuevas, Scotty	Pass Christian	46
Davis, Doug*	Hernando	1
Dawkins, Debbie	Pass Christian	48
Dearing, Bob	Natchez	37
Doxey, Ralph	Holly Springs	2
Harden, Alice	Jackson	28

Hewes III, William	Gulfport	49
Hohm, John	Jackson	26
Huggins, Bunky	Greenwood	14
Jackson, Robert	Marks	11
Jackson II, Sampson	DeKalb	32
Jordan, David	Greenwood	24
Kirby, Dean*	Pearl	30
Lee, Ezell*	Picayune	47
Michel, Walter	Jackson	25
Moffat, Tommy	Gautier	52
Morgan, Ed*	Hattiesburg	45
Posey, Lynn*	Union Church	36
Robertson, Tommy	Moss Point	51
Ross, Charlie	Brandon	20
Snowden, Greg	Meridian	83
Simmons, William	Cleveland	13
Thames, Billy*	Mize	34
Walls Jr., Johnnie	Greenville	12
Williamson, Gloria	Philadelphia	18

NAY-21 (against land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Browning, Nickey	Pontotoc	3
Bryan, Hob*	Amory	7
Butler, Kelvin	Magnolia	38
Carmichael, Videt*	Meridian	33
Flowers, Merle	Southaven	19
Frazier, Hillman	Jackson	27
Gordon, Jack*	Okolona	8
Hyde-Smith, Cindy*	Brookhaven	39
Jackson, Gary*	French Camp	15
King Jr., Tom*	Petal	44
Lee, Perry*	Mendenhall	35
Little, Travis*	Corinth	4
Mettel, Nolan	Sardis	10
Nunnelee, Alan*	Tupelo	6
Pickering, Stacey*	Soso	42
Thomas, Joseph	Yazoo City	21
Tollison, Gray	Oxford	9
Turner, Bennie	West Point	16
Walley, Shannon*	Leakesville	43
White, Richard*	Terry	29
Wilemon Jr., J.P.	Belmont	5

PRESENT

Golliott, Tommy	Biloxi	50
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ABSENT

Harvey, Billy*	Prentiss	41
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Vet finds pet care a disaster ministry, too

By Keith Manuel
Correspondent

Ministering to people through their pets is a part of Walter Mullen's everyday practice of veterinary medicine in Ocean Springs. Since Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, however, Mullen's efforts have quietly intensified.

"I am much more content being behind-the-scenes doing something for somebody," said Mullen, "than being up front and noticed for doing it."

One of his behind-the-scenes ministries comes from making trips to the state's veterinary school at Mississippi State University in Starkville — five-hour drive one-way — to retrieve food and water for the pets of his clients. Families who evacuated in the hours before Katrina struck entrusted him with over 80 of their pets.

Mullen views boarding the pets as an opportunity for ministry because, tragically, one of his clients died when she would not leave her dog during the storm. "She drowned. They found her holding her dog," he said. "She was the quintessential, pleasant, grandmother-figure."

Reflecting on the tragedy, he said, "It kind of sobers you up. It was something where we could have helped her."

In the days after the storm, he made sure pets could receive the care needed by making provision for the owners. Depending on the devastation of personal property the pet owner sustained, Mullen would adjust his fees accordingly.

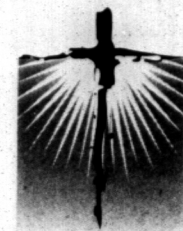


Mullen and four-legged disaster victim

Springs, attending First Church. His home is almost four feet off the ground and approximately twenty-five feet above sea level, yet water flowed under his home.

Although he fared well, many of his neighbors did not. One particular neighbor is his 95-year-old grandmother, who has no visible sign of her home left on her lot. "Acts of service have been the biggest part of my ministry," said Mullen. "I have had to clear a lot of glass and debris for my grandmother and our neighbors," he said. "I found several things of hers that she [lost during the storm.] We also found some World War II medals for another neighbor."

Mullen's wife Jan stated that one of their staffers became a Christian while evacuated for the storm. She said, "[Walter] has been a good witness to his staff. [The employee] came and told him after the storm that she became a Christian because she



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BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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knew he was a Christian too. He gave her some guidance about finding a church home and getting involved in a Bible study."

One of Mullen's favorite Bible verses, Proverbs 3:5-6, has manifested itself in his life in the days after the storm. He said, "Do you know why the storm came? No. Do you know why you lost your house? No, but if the trust is there — if the faith is there — you know that whatever happens, God is going to be there with you."

Editor's note: Manuel, a native of Ocean Springs, is a former pastor of Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, and currently serves as senior pastor of Calvary Church, New Orleans.

Moore book soars

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — More than 140,000 copies of Beth Moore's new devotional book, *Voices of the Faithful*, have been sold nationwide since its release August 2. The book shot up the bestsellers list and stayed in the top five for at least two months in Christian Retailing and was first on the list for at least two weeks. Along with the book, the companion pieces — the worship CD and DVD — have sold 26,000 and 3,000 respectively. Churches across the United States already have started using the devotional book. First Church of St. George Island, Fla., which has about 100 members, has ordered 240 books to use as daily devotionals. The church is encouraging members to buy extra copies to share with family and friends. In Boulder, Colo., Larry Dramann, pastor of East Boulder Church, is using the devotions in his sermons with topics ranging from persecution to prayer and witnessing. "After the last [devotional] I used, I saw a woman in the church who had just returned from a trip to South Africa — God has really placed a call in her heart for missions," Dramann said. "She was walking out of the building carrying the book." After reading the devotion for his birthday, a 14-year-old boy from Muskogee, Oklahoma, could not put the book down. He kept reading devotion after devotion. "This is a good book," he said. "Anyone would like to read this." *Voices of the Faithful* is available for \$18.99 (suggested retail) through local retailers and through the International Mission Board for \$15.30 at <http://voicesofthefaithful.com> or (800) 999-3113. Special pricing is available for bulk orders. The planning and facilitator's guides can be downloaded free at <http://voicesofthefaithful.com>. Go online at www.cnn.tv/cnn/voice.htm for more information about the January simulcast event.

A unique way of adjusting his fee was by asking a client who did not suffer damage from the hurricane to make Mullen's fee for service payable to another client who lost everything.

Mullen lives in the house where he grew up in Ocean

Looking back

10 years ago

Trustees of the Foreign Mission Board endorse a bold plan to seize emerging opportunities for the Gospel created by the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union, earmarking \$10 million for the work.

20 years ago

Jackson Association schedules a pastor/church revival preparation in anticipation of the Good News America — God Loves You revival campaign that is about to begin across the Southern Baptist Convention.

50 years ago

One thousand Baptist students from 26 colleges and schools in Mississippi are expected at Mississippi College in Clinton for the annual State Baptist Student Union Convention.

MARKS OF THE PAST

I suppose all of us have some marks in our lives that remind us of unusual, significant, or thoughtless moments in our past. To this day I carry some scars on my body, on my head, on my hands, and on my legs that remind me of some moments in my youth. No doubt they will go with me to my grave.

The other day I was thinking about how foolish we are when we are young. I was observing a young man, probably in his pre-twenties, who had been to the tattoo artist several times. He had tattoos (signs and words) on his neck, ears, arms, and no telling where else. I am sure at the moment they seem significant, but I wonder how important they will be 20, 30, or 40 years from now. Through the years I have had a number of good friends who have had numerous tattoos put on their arms which years later caused them to wear long-sleeved shirts to try to cover up their youthful indiscretions.

I thought about this young man and I wondered how many times in the future he would wish that he had not

done what probably made so much sense to him at the moment. I thought about his wedding day and the fact that no tuxedo would cover up some of those indelibly printed markings on his body. I thought about what might happen as he would someday go for a job interview and those thoughtless days gone by would continue to be like a flashing neon light before a perspective employer. I wondered how he would feel when someday he had children and they would constantly read the tattoos. I wondered how he would feel if his children expressed the desire to do the same thing.

I even thought about the conclusion of this young man's life and if, lying in a casket, he would want to be

showing and saying after many years the same things that he thought and said at the age of 18 or 20 — but I reminded myself again that all of us have those marks and scars that are reminders of days gone by. The only marks that I know for sure we will never be ashamed of are the ones described by the Apostle Paul in Galatians 6, when he said, "For I bear on my body the marks of Jesus." Paul had been through a lot. He had suffered at the hands of the heathen, and he had suffered scourging attacks by saints. There were marks on his back from beatings, no doubt bruises that never healed from stonings, and emotional wounds from verbal attacks that could literally cripple.

So what are we to do with the scars of life? I think the first important step is to recognize what caused the scars. Sometimes our scars are self-

inflicted, other times they are brought on by others, or they are the working of God to bring about good in our world and us. So as you look at your scars, it is important to understand what is taking place. If the scars are there because the Lord is seeking to work His redemptive work through you, He certainly will provide strength for every problem. If on the other hand your scars are created by your own self-inflicted disobedience, the Lord will provide grace and forgiveness to bring you through. Either way, it is possible to find the Lord loving and doing a mighty work in and through us.

Even the bad scars can have a positive impact. A friend of mine who had numerous tattoos on his arms did not wear them proudly, but said they were a frequent reminder of a lifestyle that he was so thankful was no longer a part of his existence. Even the scars from bad things can cause us to say, "But thanks be to God that giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.



**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

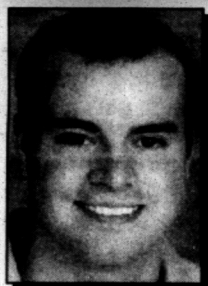
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

STAFF CHANGES



Pitts

Old Oak Grove Church, Myrtle, has called Dallas Pitts as minister of outreach. Pitts is a student at Blue Mountain College. The church has also called Robert and Norma Brownlee as senior adult directors and Heather Linville as student director. Gary Linville, pastor.

Mount Pleasant Church, Gloster, has called Stacy McCollum as pastor, effective Aug. 28. McCollum comes with his wife Christy and their three children.

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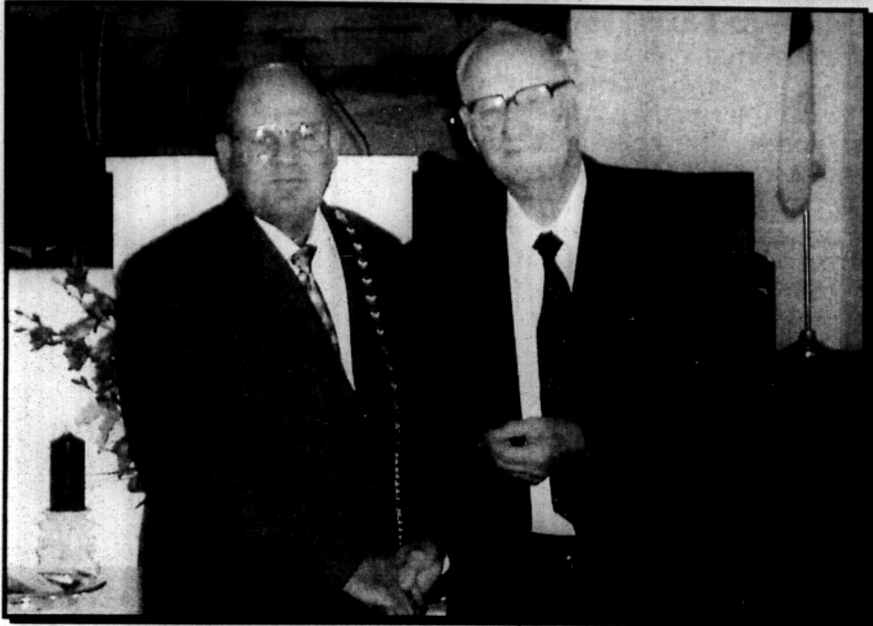
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Perfect Attendance, Briarwood Church, Meridian

1. John Johnson, a member of **Briarwood Church, Meridian**, received his 45th perfect attendance pen in Sunday School.
2. **Big Springs Church, Brookhaven**, recently held their 100 year homecoming with Talmadge Smith, Lincoln Association AMD, speaking.
3. **Green's Creek Church, Petal**, held its first annual car, truck, and motorcycle show Oct. 15. Sponsored by the church's RAs and GAs, monies raised were used to support missionaries.
4. Union County Association sponsored a World Craft party at **Ingomar Church, New Albany**, Oct. 8. Shown are Grace McMillin and Ann Witcher.



2. Homecoming Celebration, Big Springs Church, Brookhaven

5. **Barton Church, Byhalia**, will present Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames Nov. 13-15, 7 p.m. Free admission.
6. **Goss Church, Columbia**, will have the Blessing of the Hunt Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m., featuring Dogwood Outdoors, an auction for a wildlife quilt, hunting tips, comedy, and sharing of the gospel. Free admission. For information, call (601) 736-9563.
7. **Goss Church, Columbia**, will be a drop-off center for Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, Nov. 14-20.
8. **Canaan Church, Columbus**, is sponsoring a Lay Renewal Weekend Nov. 11-13. For information, call (662) 327-3771.
9. **West Ripley Church, Ripley**, will host Brian Free and Assurance Nov. 10, 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken.



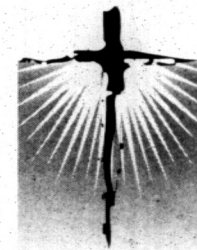
3. Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show, Green's Creek Church, Petal



4. WMU WorldCraft Party, Ingomar Church, New Albany



10. RAs & GAs Help in Katrina Effort, First Church, Oloh



MISSISSIPPI
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10. The RAs and GAs of **First Church, Oloh**, earned money to purchase and provide Bibles and teddy bears for children displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Recently, the RAs adopted an Indian boy from a Baptist village in India where he will be receiving an education and learning about Christianity. Shown are the participants.



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MS POSITIONS

WANTED CHURCH ORGANIST: Trinity Baptist Church, Meridian MS, currently seeking an organist for Sunday services and special occasions as required. The church organ use would enhance our worship services. If you live in or around the Meridian area and are interested in using your talents as our organist, please contact: Pastor Bro Ed Faskamp, (601) 485-8040 or Music Director Bro John Cooke, (601) 656-9298.

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH, Terry, Miss., is accepting applications for a permanent part-time secretary. Bookkeeping and computer knowledge a must. Send resumes c/o Jo Bridgers, Personnel Dir, 14173 Midway Rd. Terry, MS 39170.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH IN MERIDIAN, MISS., is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Resumes should be sent to minister of music search committee, Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301. For more information call (601) 644-3532 or (601) 644-3537.

FIRST CHURCH, GLUCKSTADT, Miss., seeking a music minister for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights only. Blended worship, free-flowing format. Contact Author Comans at (601) 209-6000 or email authorcomans@aol.com.

BI-VOCATIONAL/PART-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER. We stand in need of a dynamic and energetic children's minister to serve along side loving parents in a setting that includes new building space & children ranging from preschool-8th grade. Resumes accepted through December 1st. Send information to: Richmond Baptist Church, children's committee, 2243 Rd 814, Tupelo, MS 38804 or email claynell@aol.com.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PICAYUNE, MISS., is seeking a full-time children's minister. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 477, Picayune, MS 39466, attn: personnel committee.

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH is now accepting resumes for an associate pastor in music. Please send resume to the following address: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, associate pastor search committee, 1383 Pleasant Hill Road, Columbus, MS 39702.

YOUTH MINISTER POSITION AVAILABLE. Part-time youth minister needed Sunday services, Wednesday night and general youth activities. Grandview Baptist Church, 900 S. Pearson Road, Pearl, MS 39208. Call or fax resume to church office at (601) 939-4215.

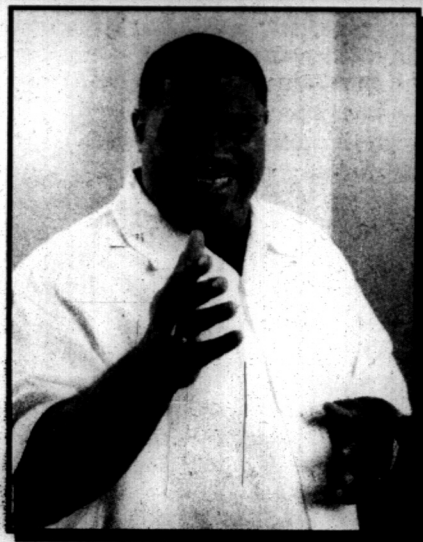
SPRINGDALE BAPTIST CHURCH is accepting resumes for the position of part-time minister of music and youth. Please submit resume to: Personnel Committee, c/o Springdale Baptist Church, 2831 Attala Hwy. 19, West, MS 39192.

MINISTER OF YOUTH: GOSS BAPTIST CHURCH, near Columbia, Miss., is seeking part-time/bi-vocational minister of youth. Please send resumes to Goss Baptist Church, attn: Donovan McComb at 718 Broad Street, Columbia, MS 39429 or contact him at (601) 444-0000.

WANTED: PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 487, Plantersville, MS 38862.

SYLVARENA BAPTIST CHURCH in Wesson is currently seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to 1119 Old Sylvarena Road, Wesson, MS 39191.

COLLEGE NEWS



Baucham, BMC

Voddie Baucham, professor and lecturer, will be the featured speaker during **Blue Mountain College's** Baptist Student Union's PrimeTime series, November 9-11. North Mississippi churches are invited to attend a special Wednesday night program on November 9 in BMC's Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. No reservations or tickets are required. For more information, contact Tracy Moser at (662) 685-4771 (Ext. 137).

Blue Mountain College's (BMC) BSU fine arts and ministry teams are available for youth events, children's activities, revivals, retreats, and worship services. For scheduling information, contact Tracy Moser at (662) 685-4771, ext. 137, or e-mail tmoser@bmc.edu.

Jerri Lamar Kantack, Assistant Professor of Music, was selected as **Blue Mountain College's** 2005 Humanities Teacher Award Recipient by the Mississippi Humanities Council. Kantack will present a vocal and instrumental program for the public on November 7, at 7:00 p.m. in Garrett Hall Auditorium. For more information, contact the Office of Public Relations at (662) 685-4771 (Ext. 246).



Miley, MC

Randy Miley, professor and chair of the Department of Art at MC, has been selected for the 2005 Mississippi Art Educators Association Higher Education Division Outstanding Art Educator of the Year Award.

The **Mississippi College** (MC) Naturals will present the 7th Annual Holiday Spectacular, Home for Christmas, also featuring the Jr. Naturals. The holiday dinner show will be presented in Alumni Hall on the MC campus Nov. 17-19, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$23 for adults and \$15 for children. Call (601) 925-3856 for tickets, e-mail naturals@mc.edu, or purchase tickets from any member of the Naturals.

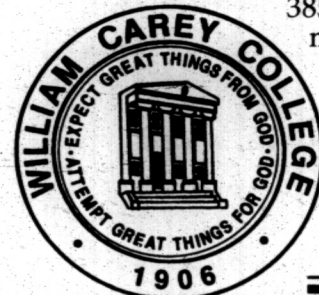
The Mississippi Theater Association Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival will be held Nov. 3-5 at the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. **William Carey College** will present Not Waving by Gen Leroy, 9 a.m., Nov. 4. Tickets are \$5; for more information, call Charlie Bosworth, (601) 318-6218 or (800) 962-5991, ext. 218.



Kantack, BMC



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COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH IN COLLIERVILLE, TENN., is now accepting resumes for a full-time senior pastor. For further information, see www.covenantontheweb.org. Email resume to general@covenantontheweb.org or mail to pastor search committee, Covenant Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027 by December 15, 2005.

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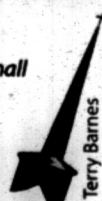
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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Respond with Faith

Job 1:1-3, 8-12, 20-22; 2:7-10

By Kevin Ivy

Television is littered with preachers who proclaim that suffering is foreign to those who have true faith. Many professing Christians have bought into this lie and have become so disillusioned that they have departed from the faith altogether. The Word of God teaches something very different about suffering (1 Peter 4:19; 2 Timothy 3:12; Philippians 1:29). Suffering is a part of life, especially the Christian life. How should we respond when suffering and loss overwhelm us? The book of Job gives an account of a faithful believer suffering overwhelming pain and loss and also exemplifies how one should respond to suffering. As we consider this week how to respond to suffering and loss, we are reminded of four things.

I. Our Perspective is Limited (1:1-3)

Those who knew Job labeled him a great man because of what they observed about him. They considered him a man of faith because they saw his sincere lifestyle and integrity. He was blameless, upright, feared God and shunned evil. Not only did they observe his faith, but also his family. He had a wife, seven sons and three daughters. They were obviously a loving family that, according to verse 4, regularly ate meals together. Not only did Job's peers observe his faith and his family, but they also observed his finances. Wealth, in Job's day, was not measured in currency, but in livestock. Verse 3 gives an inventory of Job's wealth and describes him as the greatest of all the people in the East. While



Ivy

we are quick to make judgments from what we are able to perceive, we must remember that our perspective is limited, therefore our judgments about other people, circumstances and especially ourselves may be superficial.

II. God's Perspective is Limitless (1:8)

We must understand, that while our earthly perspective is limited, God's perspective is not. Job's faithfulness, happy family and abundant wealth were all on the surface, but only God was able to discern Job's true heart. The trials that Job was about to face would change his peers' opinion of him. The trials, however, were in no way connected to God's anger, judgment, or abandonment of Job. God clearly described Job as His servant, a blameless and upright man who feared Him and stood out among other living men. The opinions that our fellow men hold concerning us, since they are based only on what is perceived, will often be very different than what

God knows is true about us. We should always remember that the only evaluation of us that is really accurate and that really matters is the one given by God.

III. Faith's Challenge (1:9-12)

Satan wanted to challenge Job's faith and prove that believers would quickly fall away given trying circumstances. Satan had the idea that believers are only faithful as long as they are prospering. (According to today's television preachers, believers are only faithful if prospering.) Satan decided to challenge the genuineness of Job's faith by taking away his prosperity and even his children. The only things Satan left Job with were his wife, his health, and the four servants who brought the bad news of Job's losses. Job, who had lived a blameless, God-fearing life was unaware of the heavenly conversation between Satan and God. He was unaware of God's affirmation of him and Satan's plan of attack against him. He lost everything in the blink of an eye and was given no good reason for it. His faith was greatly challenged.

IV. God's Faithfulness (1:20-22; 2:7-10)

Job trusted God, despite his great losses and his unbearable grief. Job's response was simply, the Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the Name of the Lord. Satan didn't stop his onslaught, however. After robbing Job of so much, he even robbed him of his health. There were no rational or even theological explanations given to Job for the disaster and pain he was facing, yet through it all he maintained his faith in God. Job rested in nothing but faith in God's goodness and the hope of His redemption. He continued to trust God through it all.

How should we respond when suffering and loss overwhelm us? Simply "trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov 3:5) for "those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever" (Ps 125:1).

Ivy is a pastor of Fairfield Church, Moselle.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

"Freed Through Christ"

Romans 7:4-6, 14-25

By Betty Davis

When we hear the word "free," we pay attention immediately. Sometimes, we need to be careful to read the fine print to clarify the full intention of the offer. Look at these free promises: free ticket, free to say what you want to, free from pain, free from worry, free from the control of others, free to live in the United States of America, and free to worship whom we choose. As Christians, we are free through the death of Jesus Christ to inherit eternal life. Today's lesson talks about spiritual freedom.

1. Accept the Demand, (Romans 7:4-6)

In my research, I was glad to find that many of the theologians wrote what I was thinking: "What is Paul saying?" I like what C.H. Dodd wrote: "When we are studying this passage, we should

try to forget what Paul is saying, and find out what he means." Paul usually said things in language the average person could understand. In this chapter, he was attempting to explain that a Christian was dead to sin (v. 4). Paul used an illustration he thought the people would relate to; the relation between a husband and wife (7:2-3). His description was to show that under law, when a married man died, the partnership between him and his wife was ended. She was no longer bound to him. She was free to marry again without breaking the law or feeling guilty. To teach his main purpose, he compared that illustration to the life of a Christian. "You are set free from the law, and you are to form a new relationship with Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead." He fur-



Davis

ther explained, "Christ is now your master... not the law." Having said that, he urged them to lead a productive life of service which would give glory to God. "Love, joy, and peace would show the fruit of their service to Christ" (Stifler).

2. Admit the Desires, (Romans 7:14-16)

Paul uses his own life to identify the weakness of the carnal (fleshly) life. Even though Paul was a Christian he struggled with sin, as we do. The phrase, "sold under sin," is language used in the slave market. A slave desired to do good, but often failed. In verse fifteen, Paul's conflict sounds like us today: "I know what I should do, and want to do, but I end up doing something I despise!" We struggle with the same issues of obeying and disobeying. The law was originally spiritual. But its wording, forbidding men to do certain things, made sin an attraction and fleshly desires weak. If believers are to be useful to God, they must admit their sinful desires and deal with them.

3. Acknowledge the Difficulties, (Romans 7:17-23)

It's hard to admit we have difficulty with sin. But it's easy to say, "I'm not perfect!" God knows we're not perfect, but He expects us to strive to be the best Christian example we can be. "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). Our allegiance to Jesus Christ needs to be a priority in our lives. The law reminds us of what sin is. As followers of Christ, we know we can overcome the temptations we face. We know how to do the right things. The hard part... is not doing the wrong things!

4. Affirm the Deliverers, (Romans 7:24-25)

Paul began these verses with a cry for help. He felt defeated and sought help for his dilemma. Paul's reference is to his sinful nature rather than to his fleshly body. Verse twenty-four was a question, "Who shall deliver me?" His answer came quickly. Verse twenty-five says, "I thank God (his deliverer) through Jesus Christ our Lord." Whenever we offer praise and thanksgiving to God (our deliverer), the feelings of anguish and

despair begin to lift and we know that God is always there when we need him. "He is our champion of freedom. He delivers believers from the burden of the law and the power of sin in order that they might serve God" (Broadman Commentary). How important it is for believers to affirm Christ as their deliverer so that they can adequately deal with their difficulty with sinful desires and be useful to God!

God always takes care of His flock. Exodus 3:7-8 says, "I have surely seen their affliction; I have heard their cry. I am come to deliver them." What a promise of hope to all of us! Christ's death freed us to begin anew. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

To be truly free in Christ, we must accept, admit, and acknowledge that we have spiritual freedom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Then, we will want to affirm with confidence to Jesus Christ that we will let our lives be useful to Him.

Davis is a member of First Church, McComb.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

THE BAPTIST
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Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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MHN CH PTHJ CRA
CXZAL HF CRA LAELHTL,
JRXUR CRA KECRAF RECR
BNC XT RXL HJT BHJAF.

EUCL HTA:LAOAT

Clue: N = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twenty-One: Twenty-Two.



4. Hays Ordination, Dry Creek Church, Simpson Association



1. Deacon Ordination, Star Church, Star

1. **Star Church, Star**, ordained Jeff Walker as a deacon Oct. 16. Shown are Vic Bowman, Walker, and Gary Glass.

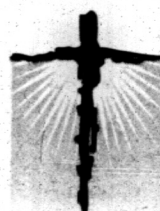
2. The GAs of **Ellistown Church, Blue Springs**, collected supplies for their Christmas in August project to send to missionary Dennis Rivera. Shown, front row, are Carol Coker, Elizabeth Buster, Santina Shook, Sara Speck, and Katie Buster; back row, Jane Roberts and Julie Bruce.

3. **First Church, Carriere**, presented pastor Gary Smith and his wife a plaque and a bouquet of flowers in honor of 41 years of service at the church. Dub Herring

of Dub Herring Ford also presented Smith with a 2005 Mercury Marquis.

4. **Dry Creek Church, Simpson Association**, recently ordained David Hays into the gospel ministry. Shown are Ted Ainsworth, Kenneth Armstrong, Hays, and Marsha Hays.

5. **Beulah Church, Myrtle**, honored pastor Ken White on his birthday with a surprise party and a barbecue grill.



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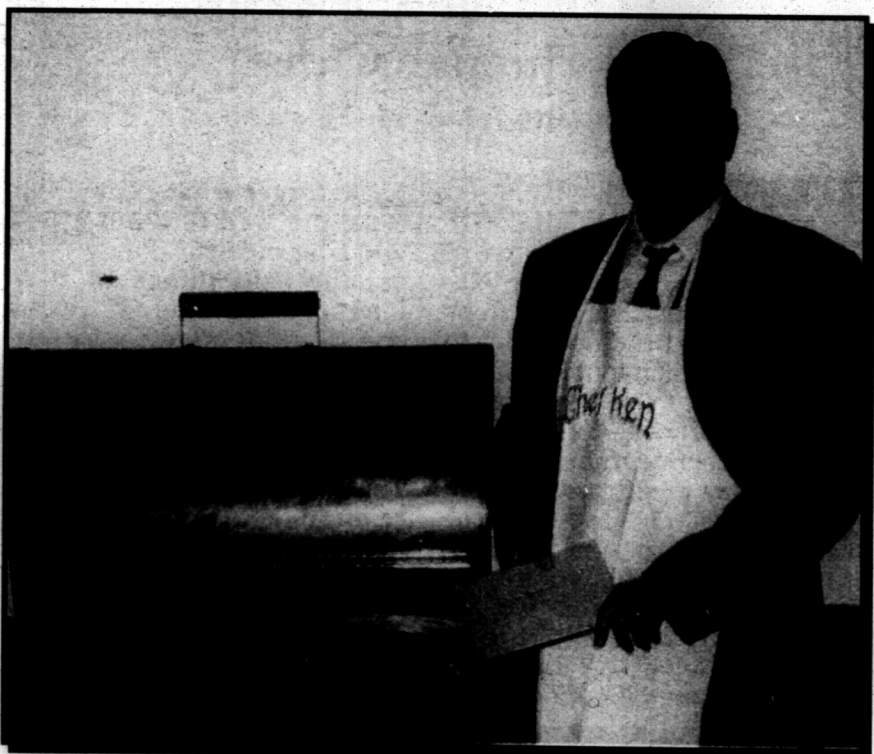
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2. GAs Missionary Project, Ellistown Church, Blue Springs



3. Pastor Honored, First Church, Carriere



5. Pastor Honored, Beulah Church, Myrtle

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REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Corinth Church, Purvis: Revival, Nov. 6-9; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by covered dish meal and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Steve Walker, music.

East Columbia Church, Columbia: Revival, Nov. 6-9; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m., with worship at 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; James Messer, speaker; Rob Schepers, music.

Harmony Church, Quitman: 125th Anniversary, Nov. 6; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and special song service, 2 p.m.; David Jay, speaker; Liberty Quartet, music; Rodney Ward, pastor.

Mt. Vernon Church, Meridian: Revival, Nov. 13-16; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by fellowship; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Frank Tribble, speaker; Lamar Callahan, music; Jim Rickles, pastor.

Trinity Church, Philadelphia: Prayer Revival and Seminar, Nov. 13-16; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David McCollom, Louisville, Ky., speaker; Wayne Hill, pastor.

West Corinth Church, Corinth: Revival, Nov. 5-8; Sat., 6 p.m.; Sun., 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Tue., 6 p.m.; Morris Anderson, speaker; Alan Guyer, music.

West Ripley Church, Ripley: Revival, Nov. 6-9; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Latch, speaker.